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Compstall Urban District Council



Annual Report

OF

**The Medical Officer of Health
and of the Surveyor and
Inspector of Nuisances**

For the Compstall Urban District for the
Year 1910



HYDE :

J. Andrew & Co., "Reporter" Office, Clarendon Place

COMPSTALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

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To the Chairman and Members of the Compstall
Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the District during the year 1910.

I am pleased to say that the district during the year 1910 has been singularly free from Infectious Cases, there being only two cases of Scarlet Fever reported. Both of these were very mild in character, and difficult to diagnose, but I considered it expedient to isolate both at the Hyde Hospital, and thus check any spread of infection.

In 1909 there were three Scarlet Fever cases, in 1908 seven, and 1907 nineteen.

The Local Government Board and County Council now require a weekly return of Infectious Cases notified in the district.

A monthly return is also sent by me to the Cheshire County Council.

During the year I have frequently inspected the mills, farms, and houses in the district, and made special visits to Hare and Hounds to inspect Tank, and to Springswood to inspect the premises. Also to the Reservoir. The fowl runs adjacent to the Reservoir have now been removed.

MILK SUPPLY

The milk consumed in the district is supplied by farmers residing in and outside the district. The milk is wholesome and of good quality. The cans and utensils are kept in a very clean condition. The dairies and cowsheds were kept clean and sanitary. There were no prosecutions.

OTHER FOODS

As regards food for consumption, other than milk, produced or sold in the district, I have occasionally examined such, and found it wholesome and of good quality.

The Fishmongers have a habit of throwing offal in the roadway, and as this constitutes a nuisance, I have warned them against such practices.

No carcase or parts of carcasses were condemned.

WATER SUPPLY

This is obtained from springs on the high parts of the district, and stored in two reservoirs. These are cleaned and limed every Spring.

The water is palatable, wholesome, clear, and plentiful.

The mains are flushed regularly.

The urban portion is supplied from the reservoirs. The rural portion obtains its water from wells and springs. These have been inspected, and found to be well protected against contamination.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS OR STREAMS

As you are aware, the whole of the sewage enters the reservoir which stores river water for the turbine at the mill.

The outlets of the sewers have been carried further into the reservoir, and the nuisance arising from the reservoir has been scarcely perceptible this year, no doubt owing to these alterations.

The river is polluted with chemicals from manufactories higher up the river, and this, in my opinion, is the *principal* cause of the nuisance.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The urban portion, being on the hillside, lends itself to natural drainage, and consequently there is very little obstruction to the sewers. I, however, advise the Council to adopt a new Sewerage Scheme, so that the sewage can be treated properly before being discharged into the river. The house drains are trapped and ventilated. The sewage consists of slop water and soap water.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL

Each house is supplied with a closet and ashpit. All (except two or three) are covered in and ventilated. There are a few water closets, which have separate septic tanks. These were in a sanitary condition when inspected. The ashpits are emptied fairly regularly by the owners, but it would be better if the Council would adopt a proper and regular system.

The house refuse is practically all burnt by the householders.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

There is only one in the district. This has been inspected, and found in a sanitary condition. The refuse is removed regularly.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION

The houses are well built and of sufficient accommodation. There are plenty of open spaces, and the streets are kept in a clean condition.

No case of overcrowding has been reported.

No new houses have been erected. A new Hall and School in connection with St. Paul's Church have been built.

The Day Schools have been inspected, and found in a sanitary condition. They are sufficient for the needs of the district.

The school children are regularly inspected by the Medical Officer of Schools appointed by the County.

The Schoolmaster reports any case of infection, and thus enables me to deal with such cases promptly.

INSPECTION OF MILLS

These have been regularly inspected, and found to be clean and sanitary. No defects were found.

The Pails were regularly emptied and disinfected.

STATISTICS

The area of the district is 903 acres, including area of six acres which is covered by water.

The population at Census 1901 was 875.

„ „ „ 1891 „ 1012.

Decrease during decennium 1891-1901 was 137 or 13·5%.

This was due to closure of Printworks.

I estimate the population for year 1910 to be 890. Number of houses inhabited in July, 1910, was 226; average number per house, 3·9.

By an order of the County Council of Chester, dated 16th of May, 1902, and duly confirmed by the Local Government Board, the Parish of Compstall, formerly part of the Stockport Rural District Sanitary Authority, was constituted an Urban District Council as from March 31, 1902.

GENERAL FEATURES

The district is hilly, and lies on the south and south-easterly portion of the Werneth Hills, in the north-west of the County of Chester, and separated from the Glossop Dale Rural District, in the County of Derby, by the River Etherow. It is bounded on the north by the Borough of Hyde; on the south and south-west by Romiley and Bredbury Urban District; and on the east and south-east by the Glossop Dale Rural District. The district is partly rural and partly urban in character. The urban portion is small, and lies at the lower border of the district, on the south and south-easterly sides.

The subsoil is chiefly composed of clay, with intervening faults of sand. The whole lies on a rocky basis.

Spinning and weaving are the chief industries. Practically all the inhabitants are employed at the mills or other works outside the district. The rural population is composed chiefly of farmers.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male.		Female.		Total.
Births	9	5	14
Deaths	6	8	14

The birth rate is 15·7 per 1,000, and is lower than last year's, which was 24 per 1,000.

The death rate is 15·7 per 1,000, and is higher than last year's, which was 14·6 per 1,000.

Seven of the deaths were of persons aged 65 years and over. Four were of infants under one year.

Rate of infantile mortality, based on the number of deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 registered births = 285 per 1,000.

This is a high mortality, but is of little consequence, as the population is so small.

The following table gives the ages at which the deaths occurred:—

Under 1 year	4
1 and under 5 years.....	Nil.
5 „ „ 15 „	Nil.
15 „ „ 25 „	1
25 „ „ 65 „	2
65 and upwards	7

The deaths from Classified Diseases were:—

Pulmonary Phthisis	3
Pneumonia	1
Heart Disease (inquest)	1

From Unclassified Diseases:—

Senile Decay	5
Suffocation (inquest)	1
Cerebral Hemorrhage	2
Congenital Debility	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As I have previously remarked in my Report, the district has been exceptionally free from infectious diseases. There were only two cases of Scarlet Fever reported. These were very mild in character, but disinfection was thoroughly carried out in both cases, and the cases isolated at the Hyde Isolation Hospital. No other case of infection was reported.

For Prevention of Infection the usual process of fumigating the houses is carried out by the Inspector, and the bed linen and clothes are either destroyed or disinfected and washed. Disinfectants are supplied free.

Cases of Phthisis occurring amongst persons receiving Poor Law medical relief have to be reported to the Medical Officer of Health. On receiving report the premises are inspected, and the patient isolated, and after death the house and bedding are disinfected.

As Phthisis is not a notifiable disease except as above-mentioned, the houses in which the three deaths from Phthisis occurred were not disinfected.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Your Council retain the use of one bed at the Hyde Isolation Hospital, and, if necessary, may send more.

Recommendations:—

1. A sewerage scheme for the urban portion.
2. Compulsory notification of Phthisis.
3. A disinfecter for bedding and clothing.

I beg to remain,

Yours obediently,

CHAS. H. HIBBERT,

Medical Officer of Health.

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ROADS

The roads have been kept up to their usual condition of repair, and the following improvements have been carried out, viz.: The raising of the cross channels in Cowlshaw Brow and the setting of the centre of the road near Low Top Farm.

The hedge along the side of Cowlshaw Brow has been cut.

The portion of road along the top of Werneth Low, from the Low Top Quarry to the Hare and Hounds Inn, was badly cut up owing to the Hyde Corporation carting stone from the Quarry to their new Reservoir. They have.

however, left a huge heap of stone for our use, and this has been placed on the road, and has made a great improvement.

PLANS

Plans have been submitted and passed for a New Piggery at Cloughside Farm and Alterations and a new Closet to the Vicarage.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS

A dangerous building was reported at Radcliff Fold Farm, and has been remedied.

SANITARY

Four cases of Nuisances have been reported and abated. The Medical Officer of Health and myself have periodically inspected the mill, and anything found wrong was reported and attended to.

The keeping of hens near the Reservoir has been stopped.

The houses where the two cases of mild Scarlet Fever occurred have been disinfected.

T. MORGAN BEVAN,
Surveyor and Inspector.